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## Summer Reading Assignment

### Sophomore Honors English 2009

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Please carefully read the following books over the summer and prepare the assignments below for the first day of class:

*All My Sons* by Arthur Miller  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neil Hurston

Please buy *All My Sons* at the Mater Dei bookstore so we all have the same version of the play. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is also available at the Mater Dei bookstore.

**I expect you to read both works without the aid of Cliff's Notes or any other similar study aid obtained from your home, a friend, a bookstore, library, or the internet.**

**THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE WORTH 100 POINTS. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON BOTH WORKS THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. BE PREPARED TO ASK QUESTIONS. THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THESE WORKS; THEY WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEMESTER'S CURRICULUM.**

#### *All My Sons*

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Using the attached list, make thorough notes in response to each question. Be sure to address all aspects of each question. What is revealed in each act does not require quotes but does require page numbers to cite where information was found. Each response to the second set of questions requires direct quotes from the text as support (cite the page numbers).

#### *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

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Using the attached instructions, thoroughly answer each question; make sure each response has direct quotes from the text for support (cite page numbers).

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- All final work **must** be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, **one inch margins** all around, and submitted on clean white paper. In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, type your MLA heading.
- Label and number each response.
- Staple everything together into **one** packet in this order: *Eyes* notes/responses, *All My Sons* notes/responses.

**\*\*\*Save all your work on a disc or on your computer at home so that you can submit this work to TurnItIn.com during the first week of school.\*\*\***

Take the time to make a good first impression!

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## Their Eyes Were Watching God

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Make thorough (not skimpy, one-sentence) notes on each of the following items—*these are your own notes, not borrowed from a study aid or any other source*. I expect *your own* deep thinking to go into these notes. **Any evidence of borrowing from another source will result in a zero grade for this assignment.**

After you've read the entire book, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Answer all the questions and do what you are asked. **Incomplete responses (which include lack of quotes from the text and/or page numbers) will earn incomplete credit.**

1. What is Janie's conflict? How do you know that is her main conflict? Can you trace this conflict consistently through the book? Where in the text can you find evidence that this is her conflict (cite page numbers for each quote you pull from the text)?
2. What is the inciting incident (the event that makes the conflict apparent and causes the rising action to begin—this occurs early in her story)? Quote from the text and cite the page number where you find your answer. Explain how this incident reveals the conflict and prompts Janie to begin her journey.
3. What is the climax (the moment the protagonist learns or begins to learn the lesson that when considered in conjunction with the conflict becomes the theme)? Quote from the text and cite the page number where you find your answer. What lesson does Janie learn at this moment? Can you prove she finished struggling with her conflict?
4. Prominent symbols in the novel include the pear tree, the mules, the storm, and Janie's journey. Explain the significance of each symbol in as much detail as you can. For each symbol, find at least one quote (cite the page number) that illustrates your main idea about that symbol.
5. How does each husband fit (or not fit) the image of the pear tree? For each husband, find at least one quote (cite the page number) that illustrates your main idea about him.
6. How does the symbol of the mules relate to each husband? For each answer, find at least one quote (cite the page number) that illustrates each of your main ideas.

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## All My Sons

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Make thorough and complete notes on each of the following items—***these are your own notes, not borrowed from a study aid or any other source.*** I expect ***your own*** deep thinking to go into these notes. **Any evidence of borrowing from another source will result in a zero grade for this assignment.**

The action of the play begins long after many important events have occurred. As you read the play, note what is revealed in each act as outlined below. You can do this as you go or after you've read the entire play. Focus on how/when facts are revealed. While direct quotes are not necessary for this section, please note the page number in your play where the information is revealed.

- Act I: What is revealed about Larry, Steve, Ann, Joe, Chris?
- Act II: What more is revealed about the Keller/Deevers business fiasco?
- Act III: What more is revealed about Larry?

After you've read the entire play, answer the following questions in complete sentences. **Incomplete responses (which include lack of quotes from the text and/or page numbers) will earn incomplete credit.**

- Discuss Keller's responsibility to himself, his family, his community/society.
- Explain/discuss the title of the play and its impact on a personal and global level.
- How do Joe, Mother (Kate), and Chris look for/rely on forces outside their control?
- What is the play saying about the American Dream? about capitalism? about the nuclear family?

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